

Remarks/Arguments:

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed February 1, 2007.

Claims 1-67 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-67. The present Response amends claims 22-24, 34, 39-41 and 50 and cancels claim 67, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1-66. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

Claims 22-24, 34 and 39-41 are objected to because of a number of informalities. Claims 22-24 have been amended to be dependent on claim 18. The phrase "the representation" has been changed to "a representation" in claims 1, 34 and 50 to avoid the antecedent basis problem. Claims 39-41 have been amended to be dependent on claim 34.

Claim 67 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 67 has been canceled.

Claims 1-5, 7-18, 20-35, 37-54 and 56-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hearst U.S. Patent No. 6,223,145. Claims 6, 19, 36 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hearst. The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Hearst describes an interactive interface for searching. It describes a "cat-a-cone" which is a display with cones representing categories in a search. The cones of the "cat-a-cone" can rotate to allow one of the cones to be in a primary viewing location. The cones of a "cat-a-cone" of Hearst are not controls as claimed in the present claims. Additionally, only one theme can be said to be shown by the cones of the "cat-a-cone" of Hearst: a cone theme.

Claim 1 and 50 reads as follows:

- I. A method for rendering a graphical user interface (GUI),
comprising:

providing for a representation of the GUI as a set of controls wherein the controls are organized in a logical hierarchy;
traversing the representation, wherein the traversing comprises:
associating a theme with a first control in the set of controls;
rendering the first control according to the theme;
rendering any descendents of the first control according to the theme;
wherein any descendents of the first control can override the theme; and
wherein one of the set of controls can communicate with another of the set of controls.

50. A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:
provide for a representation of the GUI as a set of controls wherein the controls are organized in a logical hierarchy;
traverse the representation, wherein the traversing comprises instructions to cause the system to:
associate theme with a first control in the set of controls;
render the first control according to the theme;
render any descendents of the first control according to the theme;
wherein any descendents of the first control can override the theme; and
wherein one of the set of controls can communicate with another of the set of controls.

Claims 1 and 50 describe one of the set of controls communicating with another of the set of controls. This is not shown or made obvious Hearst.

The cones of the “cat-a-cone” of Hearst are not controls that intercommunicate but are instead display elements that are shown to indicate categories.

For this additional reason, claims 1 and 50, and dependent claims 2-17 and 51-66 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 18 reads as follows:

18. A method for rendering a graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:
accepting a request;
mapping the request to a set of controls that represent the GUI, and
wherein the controls are organized in a logical hierarchy;
traversing the representation, wherein the traversing comprises:
associating a theme with a first control in the set of controls;
rendering the first control according to the theme;
rendering any descendents of the first control according to the theme;
and
wherein any descendents of the first control can override the theme.

Hearst does not show or make obvious a method where descendants of a control can override a theme as claimed

For this additional reason, claim 18 and dependent claims 19-33 are believed to be allowable.

Claim 34 reads as follows:

34. A method for rendering a graphical user interface (GUI), comprising:
providing a the representation of the GUI as a plurality of controls
wherein the controls are organized in a logical hierarchy;
traversing the representation, wherein the traversing comprises:
associating a first theme with a first control in the plurality of controls;
rendering the first control according to the first theme;
associating a second theme with a second control in the
plurality of controls;
rendering the second control according to the second theme; and
wherein the second control is a descendant of the first control.

Claim 34 claims controls having multiple themes. This is not shown or suggested in the cited prior art.

For this additional reason, claim 34 and dependent claims 35-49 are believed to be allowable.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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